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P-Roberts, Chalmers
Sec. 4.01.2 - The Nuclear
Years
A Thousand Days

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

Masters of the U-2

In The Post of Nov. 30 there is an article by your Bernard Nossiter, under an Oslo dateline, about the Russian submarine excursion into the Norwegian fjord. On page A10, column 7, there is this paragraph:

"If an exercise had been scheduled for November in the Sognefjord, the explanation runs, the Soviet military would have been insensitive to the political authorities. In this view, the Soviet military was not trying to sabotage Helsinki, any more than the Pentagon masters of the U-2 were out to undermine the summit 12 years ago. The Soviet military machine, it is suggested, may have simply been pursuing business as usual."

Mr. Nossiter has his facts wrong. Perhaps he should consult your recently retired Chalmers M. Roberts, who could tell him the Pentagon held no "masters of the U-2." In his book, "The Nuclear Years" (Praeger, 1970) Mr. Roberts discusses the matter, starting on page 43. He makes it clear the U-2 flights were ordered by Presi-

dent Eisenhower and were directed by the Central Intelligence Agency. They also were carried out by a contractor (Lockheed) who was paid by CIA.

Another authority who might persuade Mr. Nossiter is Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr. In "A Thousand Days" (Houghton Mifflin, 1965), Mr. Schlesinger writes on page 241 of how Richard Bissell, CIA's deputy director for operations, "conceived and fought through the plan of U-2 flights over the Soviet Union."

Clearly, Mr. Nossiter's comment is not based on fact. The Defense Department used some of the information obtained by the U-2 and Defense Secretary Thomas Gates said so. But to declare, as Mr. Nossiter did, that "Pentagon masters of the U-2" instigated or carried out the flights is incorrect.

CLAUDE WITZE.

Washington.

CIA 4.02. U-2
CIA 1.02 Bissell, Richard
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